




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Topaz Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1980-055-HR	<b>MINERAL:</b> Uranium and vanadium	<b>COUNTY:</b> San Miguel
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Multi Person Inspection	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Lucas West	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 19, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:50
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Pinon Ridge Mining LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Michael Rutter	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112d-3 - Designated Mining Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$99,893.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> June 10, 2022	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the normal monitoring program established by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program as well as to conduct on site discussion between the James Blair of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Michael Rutter the Operator representative, Bruce Smith of Western Water and Land the Operator's Consultant as well as representatives from Edge Environmental a third party consultant working on the Environmental Assessment required under the BLM's Plan of Operation application process. In addition Grant Glasier representing the Operator was present during the inspection. The Topaz mine is a 112d-3 operation that is currently in Temporary Cessation. The site is a part of a five site permitted complex collectively referred to as the Sunday Mine Complex. The site consists of and consists 1,674.6 Permitted Acres and a maximum allowed disturbance of 30 acres. The Division currently holds \$99,893.00 in Financial Warranty for the site. A reclamation cost estimate update will be performed and any increase in the required financial warranty amount will be sent to the Operator under a separate cover. Four Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current conditions of the site.

As seen in Photo One, the permit ID sign was observed near the entrance to the site. The permit boundary markers were also observed. Evidence that the diversion ditches and storm water control devices are functioning as designed was noted and no significant erosion was observed throughout the site. Maintenance of the storm water control structures has not been needed and all structures were in good condition at the time of the inspection.

The shop facility located on site was observed to be secure and is in good working order. No damage or signs of vandalism was noted during the inspection. The portal located on site was also secured, it has been closed off with steel grates as well as encompassed by a small berm as seen in Photo Two. Some mining related equipment including vent tubing and steel scaffolding is being stored on site. The items that are stored are in a neat and orderly fashion and not considered a problem at this time. No fuel storage containers were observed on site. Various other debris was observed on site however it was stored in an orderly fashion and was not a concern at this time.

The main pad and work area was in good condition as seen in Photos Three and Four, evidence of weed management during the growing season was observed. Some areas around the perimeter of the pad area have begun to revegetate themselves with volunteer species. The whole site exhibits positive drainage and no erosional issues were observed at this time.

The overall footprint of the site is in good condition, and free from excessive trash or debris. No significant signs of settling, slumping or erosion were noted on site and no State Listed Noxious Weeds were observed. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at 1001 E. 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Room 215, Denver CO, 80216, by phone at (303) 866-3567 Ext. 8187 or by email at [lucas.west@state.co.us](mailto:lucas.west@state.co.us)

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo One: View north, showing the proper Mine ID signage posted on the shop facility on site.



Photo Two: View south, showing the secured portal entry. The portal was verified secure with locking metal gate as well as berming in front of the gate and an earthen backfill within the portal structure.





**Inspection Contact Address**

Michael Rutter  
Pinon Ridge Mining LLC  
P O Box 825  
Nucla, CO 81424

CC: Travis Marhsall, DRMS  
James Blair, BLM